<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 18-20 are rejected. Claims 7-17 are allowed. No new matter has been added.

<u>Amendment to the Title</u>

The Office Action states that the title of the invention is not descriptive. Applicants have amended the title. Applicants submit that the amended title of the invention is now more indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

<u>Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102</u>

Claims 1-6 and 18-20 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,787,247 issued to *Norin et al.*

Briefly stated, *Norin et al.* is directed to a store-and-forward replication process. Each server keeps track of locally made changes to a particular copy of a data set. Changes to the local copy of the data set are replicated such that the modifications reside on at least one other server on the network. User access to the local copy of the data set is terminated before the data set is deleted to prevent any pre-deletion changes to the data set that aren't replicated to the other servers. The data set can be deleted from one server as long as an updated copy of the data set exists on another server such that data loss is prevented.

In contrast, applicants' invention provides a system and method for insuring that each of a set of resources has been replicated to a subject computer in a replica set prior to making use of the resources as a set. A manifest file identifies each resource in a group of interrelated resources. When a modification occurs to one of the interrelated resources, the manifest file is transmitted to each computer in a replica set. When the manifest file is received at another computer in the replica set, a file replication service (FRS) evaluates the manifest file to identify whether the appropriate versions of the identified resources exist at the receiving computer. If not, the FRS at that computer awaits the receipt of each resource. The wait period may include disallowing an application associated with the manifest file from launching. Likewise, the FRS may simply disallow access to one or more resources identified in the manifest file until all the

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resources have arrived. When all the resources have arrived, the FRS releases control of the identified resources, which may then operate or be accessed in the ordinary manner.

More particularly, claim 1 teaches that "if a first resource identified in the manifest file does not exist at the second member, preventing a second resource identified in the manifest file from being executed until the first resource does exist at the second member."

Norin et al. does not disclose preventing execution of a second resource until the second member receives the first resource. Instead *Norin et al.* recites, "If it can be determined that the changes which reside locally also reside somewhere else in the enterprise, then the copy of the data set contained in [the] replica may be safely deleted without risk of inadvertent data loss." (*Norin et al.*, column 16, lines 18-22). Deleting a data set after insuring that the data set exists on another server is outside the scope of what is claimed in Applicants' claim 1. At least in part since *Norin et al.* recites nothing about preventing execution of a second resource until the second member receives the first resource, the cited reference does not anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 2 teaches that "identifying whether each resource exists at the second member includes comparing information in the manifest file with information stored at the second member..."

Norin et al. does not disclose that identifying whether each resource exists at a member (such as a computer) includes comparing information in a manifest file with information stored at the member. Instead, *Norin et al.* recites, "a handshaking procedure can be used to verify whether the local changes [to the data set] reside in the enterprise." Clearly, verifying that changes made to a data set reside on at least one other server on the network is substantially different than what is claimed in Applicants' claim 2. Thus, at least because *Norin et al.* recites nothing of identifying whether a resource exists at a computer by comparing a manifest file with data stored at the computer, this reference cannot anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 2.

Claim 5 teaches that "if the first resource does not exist at the second member, awaiting receipt of the first resource at the second member and, in response to receiving the first resource at the second member, executing the second resource." Further, Claim 6 teaches that "if the first resource does not exist at the second member, awaiting receipt of every resource identified in the

manifest file, and in response to a final resource identified in the manifest file being received at the second member, executing the second resource."

Norin et al. does not disclose awaiting the receipt of a resource and then executing the resource when the resource is received. Instead, Norin et al. recites testing "whether the changes which form the basis for the local copy of the data set resides in the enterprise," and "[i]f the changes do not reside in the enterprise, then...appropriate action should be taken." (column 25, lines 37-42) Appropriate action includes "tak[ing] no action at all" (column 25, lines 46-47), "automatically forc[ing] the replica node back to an active replica state" (column 25, lines 66-67), "automatically forc[ing] the replica node into the delete now state" (column 26, lines 7-8), and "notify[ing] the administrator that the replica node was unable to verify that its changes reside in the enterprise" (column 26, lines 14-16). Deletion of a data set is based on whether the changes made to the data set are found elsewhere on an enterprise. Thus, at least because Norin et al. discloses nothing regarding awaiting the receipt of a resource and then executing the resource when the resource is received, this reference does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as taught by claims 5 and 6.

Claim 18 teaches "computer-executable instructions...comprising...issuing an instruction to create a manifest file...in response to...receiving a notice that a resource in a group of resources is being modified" Further referring to the specification, "a manifest file...describes a group of resources...that form a resource group." (page 7, lines 20-22)

Norin et al. does not teach issuing an instruction to create a manifest file in response to the modification of a resource in a resource group. Norin et al. recites, "[a]ny mechanism which allows a local replica node to ascertain whether the information contained in the local copy of the data set which is about to be removed resides somewhere on the enterprise can be used." (Norin et al., column 21, lines 57-61). Norin et al. is directed to verification that a record of a modification to a data set exists on a server before the data set is deleted. Norin et al. makes no mention of issuing an instruction to create a manifest file in response to the modification of a resource in a resource group. Thus, at least because Norin et al. recites nothing about a manifest file, this reference cannot anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 18.

For at least the reasons discussed above, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6 abd 18-20 are not anticipated by or made obvious in view of Norin et al. and are, therefore,

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allowable. Furthermore, claims 2-6 and 19-20 depend on valid base claims and are allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 18 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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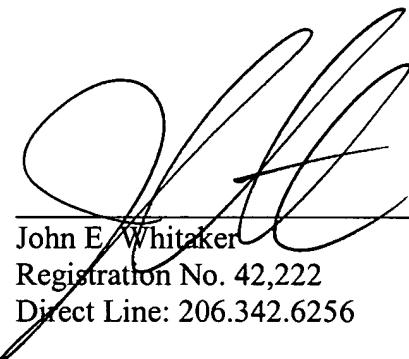
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